

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of administering user rights of a software program that can be increased in number, comprising:

10 a step of a user right administrative apparatus of determining whether a predetermined event has occurred;

a step of said user right administrative apparatus of informing a licensee of the occurrence of said predetermined event;

15 a step of said licensee of acquiring expansion information that causes said user right administrative apparatus to revise user right information indicating a maximum number of users permitted to use said software program;

20 a step of said licensee of providing said expansion information to said user right administrative apparatus; and

a step of said user right administrative apparatus of revising, in response to a reception of
25 said expansion information, said user right information stored therein.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined event is that a number indicative of how many times said licensee is not allowed to activate said software program in a
35 predetermined time period because no user right remains unused exceeds a predetermined number.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1,
5 wherein said predetermined event is a reception of
an alarm indicating that a natural disaster has
occurred.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said step of revising said user right
information further comprises:
15 a step of receiving an expansion code from
said licensee;
a step of decoding said expansion code to
reproduce said expansion information; and
a step of revising said user right
20 information using said expansion information.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein
said user rights are identified by
respective identifying information;
said user rights information indicates
30 which one of said user rights is in an effective
state;
said expansion information indicates which
one of said user rights is to be turned from an
ineffective state to an effective state; and
35 the user right that is in the ineffective
state cannot activate said software program.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1,
5 wherein said user right administrative apparatus
informs, instead of said licensee, an agreement
administrative apparatus that issues said expansion
information, of the occurrence of said predetermined
event.

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7. The method as claimed in claim 6,
15 wherein said expansion information is provided by an
agreement administrative apparatus instead of said
licensee.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 6,
wherein
said agreement administrative apparatus
25 retrieves, in response to a reception of the
information of the occurrence of said predetermined
event, agreement information indicating said maximum
number corresponding to said software program and
said licensee; and
30 said agreement administrative apparatus
generates said expansion information.

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9. The method as claimed in claim 5,
wherein

said agreement administrative apparatus
retrieves, in response to a reception of the
information of the occurrence of said predetermined
event, agreement information indicating which one of
5 said user rights is in an effective state; and
said agreement administrative apparatus
generates said expansion information indicating
which one of said user rights is to be turned from
said ineffective state to said effective state.

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10. An administrative system of user
15 rights of a software program that can be increased
in number, comprising:
a communications unit;
a secondary storage unit; and
a central processing unit that determines
20 whether a predetermined event has occurred, informs
a licensee of the occurrence of said predetermined
event, and revises, in response to a reception of an
expansion information, user right information stored
therein,

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wherein
said licensee acquires said expansion
information that causes said user right
administrative apparatus to revise said user right
information indicating a maximum number of users
30 permitted to use said software program; and
said licensee provides said expansion
information to said user right administrative
apparatus.

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11. The administrative system as claimed
in claim 10, wherein

said user rights are identified by
respective identifying information;

5 said user right information indicates
which one of said user rights is in an effective
state;

10 said expansion information indicates which
one of said user rights is to be turned from an
ineffective state to said effective state; and

the user right that is in the ineffective
state cannot activate said software program.

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12. An administrative system of agreement
information of a software program in which user
rights can be increased in number, comprising:

20 a communications unit;

an secondary storage unit; and

25 a central processing unit that retrieves,
in response to a reception of information of an
occurrence of a predetermined event, agreement
information indicating a maximum number
corresponding to said software program and a
licensee, and generates an expansion information
that causes an administrative apparatus of user
rights.

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35 13. A computer readable recording medium
storing a computer program that administers user
rights of a software program that can be increased
in number, wherein said computer program causes a

computer to:

determine whether a predetermined event
has occurred;

inform a licensee of an occurrence of a
5 predetermined event; and

revise, in response to a reception of
expansion information, user right information stored
therein;

wherein

10 said licensee acquires said expansion
information that causes to revise said user right
information indicating a maximum number of users
permitted to use said software program; and

said licensee provides said expansion
15 information to said computer.

20 14. The computer readable recording medium
as claimed in claim 13, wherein

said user rights are identified by
respective identifying information;

said user rights information indicates
25 which one of said user rights is in an effective
state;

said expansion information indicates which
one of said user rights is to be turned from an
ineffective state to an effective state; and

30 the user right that is in the ineffective
state cannot activate said software program.